

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Conversation

By Walter E. Myer

HOW to become a good conversation-alist—a few practical suggestions:

1. Don't scorn "small talk." As long as you live you will be in the midst of it. Everywhere you go you will find people talking about little things; about wholly unimportant things; about clothing, food, ordinary daily happenings, what somebody said, the weather.

All this chatter may not amount to a hill of beans, but what's the difference. Participate just the same. After all you aren't a cat. You can't display your friendliness and good nature by purring, and the human equivalent of purring is small talk.

2. Read widely about a variety of important subjects. Occasionally the unexpected will happen and conversation will turn to serious matters. Then, if you are well informed you can expound your ideas to good effect. As you engage in a meaningful discussion your mental horizon expands, you think more concisely, you gain practice in speaking, you grow in self-confidence and in public esteem. You enjoy conversation at its best.

3. Don't talk too much. Give the other fellow a chance. If you want to flatter him and win his friendship, pay attention to what he has to say. If you listen to him with eager interest, or if you seem to do so, he will think that you are a discerning fellow, worthy of his admiration.

So cultivate the art of listening as well as the art of speaking. Remember that the ear as well as the tongue has a part to play in conversation.

4. Don't leave anyone out when you converse. If you are engaged in group discussion see that everyone in the group is brought into it. If someone seems unacquainted with the subject under discussion, shift the conversation to ground with which he is familiar. Don't follow that technique all the time, but try now and then to appeal to the interests of all. That is mere common courtesy.

5. Don't try too hard to be funny. A sense of humor is a fine thing. Cultivate and practice it, within limits. Remember though, that the best radio comedians in the country can't be funny all the time. Most of them find once a week a little too often for their displays of wit. So if, on occasion, a wise crack doesn't come quickly enough to your mind, don't worry.

And one more thing: Don't hurt people with your wit. Learn to be clever without being rude or sarcastic.

If these suggestions don't seem to meet your needs toss them aside. But in one way or another you should cultivate the art of conversation. It is an art too often neglected. This is strange, for conversation which is informed, flexible, good-humored and courteous will contribute immeasurably to successful living. One who converses readily, forcefully and pleasingly carries a key which will unlock many a door leading to popularity and happiness.



Walter E. Myer



A TIME for good, hard thinking

Which Way to Peace?

Four Conflicting Points of View as to What Our Foreign Policy Should Be in Face of Present World Crisis

THESE are dangerous days. The world is tense with the fear of another war as the United States and Russia oppose each other on most of the big issues before the world. Less powerful nations are lining up on one side or the other.

Conditions such as these do not produce peace. But another world war would be so horrible that sensible people everywhere are hoping that a way may still be found to avoid it. In our own country, citizens are asking, "What can the United States do to help preserve peace? What shall our course of action be?"

While every person hopes for peace, there are many different answers as to how we may best work for it. Opinion concerning the plans which our government should follow falls into several groups.

In this article, we shall take up four of these points of view, each of which has a considerable number of supporters. Let us assume that we are listening in on a debate, hearing the arguments of four different speakers.

The first speaker favors the plans now being followed by President Truman and Secretary of State George Marshall. He says:

"The United States is wise in making arrangements to help the countries of western Europe, including Britain, France, Italy, the Nether-

lands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. We should help these democracies of the west by spending billions of dollars for the relief of their people and the rebuilding of their industries.

"With our assistance, these countries probably can get on their feet. Then their people will live better and will be less likely to go over to communism. If these lands should be attacked by Russia, moreover, they will have stronger defenses than they could build and maintain without our assistance.

"By making the democratic nations stronger, it is likely that we can keep Russia from taking control over more nations in Europe. She will probably not be able to push farther westward. And the nations already in her grasp may eventually compare their conditions with those in western democracies, become dissatisfied, and make it extremely difficult for Russia to hold on to them.

"On the other hand, if we do not give western Europe generous assistance, the hungry and discouraged people may be converted to communism. The Communist leaders to whom they turn would take orders from Moscow. Then their lands would go down the road which Czechoslovakia has so recently been forced to travel.

"In certain parts of the world, the Russian threat is so great that the

Meaning of the Czech Seizure

Communist Power Over Nation Gives Russia Control of Valuable Resources

JUST what does it mean, in human terms, to have democracy suddenly wiped out in a country? If you were to ask a Czechoslovakian this question, he could give you a vivid, tragic answer. Ferdinand Kuhn, writing in the Washington Post, tells of the numerous freedoms and privileges which the people of that country enjoyed before the Communists seized power.

They could, he points out, "read what they liked, say what they liked, vote as they liked. Their country was in the Soviet sphere of influence, tied to Russia by a military and political alliance, but in its internal affairs it was still free.

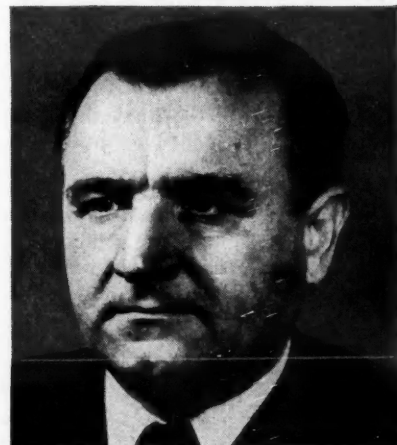
"The Czechs could read attacks on their government in newspapers of the opposition parties. They could go to see American or Soviet films, as they chose. They could buy foreign publications. They could move and travel where they wished.

"Today the non-Communist newspapers have been taken over by a disciplined Communist minority. Politicians of the non-Communist parties have been arrested and jailed. Soon there will be the purges, the concentration camps, and perhaps the firing squad or gallows.

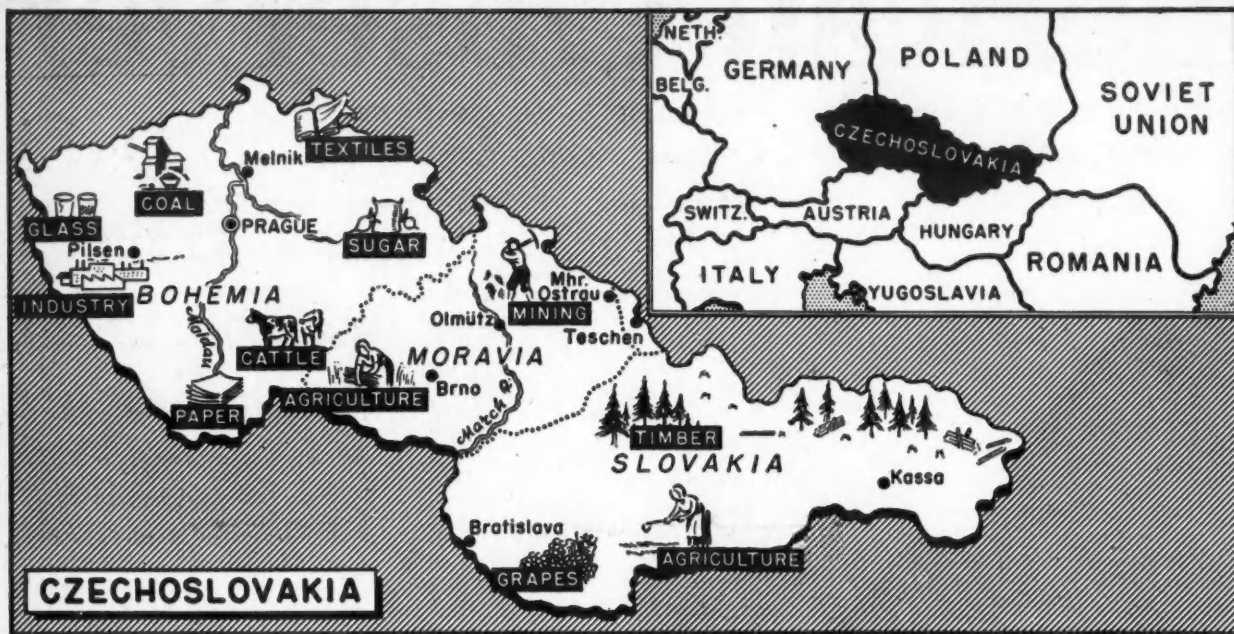
"From now on, into an indefinite future, the Czechoslovak people can look forward only to the dread sound and symbol of the police state—what Dean Acheson, former Undersecretary of State, once called "the knock on the door at night that strikes terror into men and women."

Why did the Czech Communists, with the backing of Russia, hurriedly seize complete power over their nation? Why were they not satisfied with the positions of authority they held? What more does Russia feel she can gain from this country, which had been cooperating with her?

(Concluded on page 2)



KLEMENT GOTTWALD, Communist Premier of Czechoslovakia



Czech Seizure

(Concluded from page 1)

One of the answers is that Russia and the Czech Communists want to close off the nation more completely from the rest of the world. They want to keep it from being a "window" through which the people living behind the "Iron Curtain" of Europe can see and hear what is going on in the western part of the continent.

They are especially anxious to do this right now because in a few months the lands of western Europe will undertake a recovery program with American aid. Having made Czechoslovakia and other small nations in the east stay out of this program, the Soviet Union wants them to hear as little about it as possible. They might become greatly dissatisfied if they were to learn that their western neighbors were successfully shaking off the effects of the war.

Still another reason for the Communist blow is that a national election had been set for May in Czechoslovakia. There was evidence to indicate that the Communists might not win enough votes to keep all the seats they held in the nation's legislature.

Not wishing to risk a possible setback, the Communists took no chances. With the country under their thumb, they will prevent the holding of a free, democratic election. After they have stamped out all open opposition to communism, they will stage an "election" which will produce results desired by them.

Finally, it is reported that Russia wanted more complete control over the output of Czech farms and factories. It was not enough that Czechoslovakia had been willing to obey the Soviet Union's wishes in the past. The Russians wanted full command over the little country's industrial skill and wealth. Czech factories can turn out large quantities of products both for peace and war. With native Communists taking their orders from Moscow, the Soviet Union now practically owns Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia's attempt to keep her democracy and to remain on friendly terms with her powerful neighbor has thus come to nought. She is no longer in a position to act as a "bridge" between Russia on the east and the democracies of the western world. Most tragic of all, she has lost the freedom which she had cherished ever

since she was founded as a nation after World War I.

A landlocked country extending some 500 miles from east to west, Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 from lands of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thomas Masaryk, the country's first president, led his people in a successful effort to found a democratic government, patterned after those of western nations.

The new nation prospered and progressed until, in 1938, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis started their march of aggression in Europe. Hitler demanded for Germany a sizable portion of western Czechoslovakia, on the grounds that it was the home of many Germans. Most of these people had never lived in Germany, but Hitler claimed that they belonged under German rule. At the time, he said this was the last demand for surrounding territory which he would make.

Munich Conference

At a dramatic meeting in September 1938, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy agreed that Hitler should take the area which he had been seeking. President Eduard Benes of Czechoslovakia had no choice but to accept the decision which was handed to him. A few months later, Germany took control of most of the rest of Czechoslovakia, and the Czech government went into exile.

After six years of German occupation, the country was freed in May 1945. The exile government, still headed by Benes, came home, and set about to restore Czech prosperity.

The nation was smaller in area than before the war, having lost its eastern province of Ruthenia to Russia. This left Czechoslovakia with some 50,000 square miles—about the size of our state of New York. Most of the country's 12 million people are Czechs and Slovaks—Slavic peoples who speak related languages.

Entering the country from Germany on the west, a visitor would travel through the provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, where both farms and industries thrive in normal times. The land is rich in deposits of iron, coal, copper, and lead, and there are many skilled workers.

The visitor would see good farming areas on roads lined with pear and apple trees. He would observe fields of wheat and of sugar beets, and pastures dotted with herds of cattle. He would find that the well-kept acres produce some of the highest

yields in grains and potatoes in all of Europe.

Every few miles, the traveler would come upon an industrial town, blackened by the smoke of great factories turning out high-grade textiles, shoes, glass, and steel. He would pass through mining settlements and great industrial cities. At Prague, the capital, on the historic Moldau River, he would see a city of nearly one million people. At Pilsen he would be impressed with the great Skoda munitions plant, one of the largest arms factories in Europe.

The Czechs, who are the chief inhabitants of Bohemia and Moravia, are especially noted as leaders in modern music, art, and literature. City people of that area dress much like Americans, while the rural inhabitants sometimes still wear embroidered stockings, elaborate lace dresses, and colorful headgears.

As one travels eastward from Bohemia through Moravia and into Slovakia, it is as though an entirely different nation were being visited. This is a land of rolling hills and tree-covered mountains; a land consisting to a large extent of woodsmen and shepherds. Here, as elsewhere in Czechoslovakia, the people are educated and intelligent.

SMILES

Cowboy: "Getting your saddle on backward, aren't you?"

Dude Rancher: "That's all you know about it, smarty. You don't even know which way I'm going."

★ ★ ★

A very stout man was walking on the promenade of a seaside town when he noticed a weighing machine with a sign saying: "I speak your weight."

He put a penny in the slot and stood on the platform. A voice answered, "One at a time, please."

★ ★ ★

A man who ran for sheriff in a small town got 7 votes out of 1,200, and the next day he walked down Main Street with two guns hanging from his belt.

"You were not elected, and you have no right to carry guns," fellow citizens told him.

"Listen," he replied, "a man with no more friends than I've got in this county needs to carry guns."

★ ★ ★

"Dad, what is an efficiency expert?" a small boy asked his father.

"An efficiency expert, my son, is a chap smart enough to tell you how to run your business and too smart to start one of his own."

Czechoslovakia's system of making a living is well balanced between the farm and the factory. About two-fifths of the people engage in farming, and almost as many work in the 9,000 factories and in the mines. Others work in the great national forests, which occupy one-third of the land. The rest are in business and the professions.

Most of the people, in normal times, are neither rich nor poor. They earn enough money for a fairly comfortable existence, and their standard of living is higher than that of most of their neighbors. The country produces nearly all the food and many of the manufactured products that are needed by the people. The chief products which they have to buy from other nations are raw cotton, wool, machinery, chemicals, fats, and oils.

In exchange for what she buys, Czechoslovakia trades her surplus foods and factory goods. Now that she is more firmly in the grip of Russia, it is expected that practically all her trade will be with the Soviet Union. Before the war, however, she exchanged products chiefly with her small neighbors, and to some extent with Britain and the United States.

Government Ownership

Since the war, Czechoslovakia—like Britain—has made a number of changes in methods of doing business. The Czech government has taken over the ownership of banks, insurance companies, mines, steel and chemical industries, and other large manufacturing companies. Today it is estimated that the government owns about two-thirds of all the nation's industries. With the Communists in full sway, government ownership will be extended much further.

While the country remains under Communist control, its government is certain to show unfriendliness toward the United States. When that happens, we should remember that the Czech people themselves have always been friendly toward Americans and have shown their admiration for our ways of governing and living. They have kept alive their love of freedom and democracy during dark days in the past, and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the future.

Would-be Employer: "Have you any references?"

Would-be Employee: "Sure, here's the letter: 'To whom it may concern, John Jones worked for us one week, and we're satisfied.'"

★ ★ ★

"The evidence shows you threw a rolling pin at your husband," a judge told the woman on trial.

"It shows more than that," she snapped. "It shows I hit him."



"TAKE THIS . . . it'll make it easier for you to get back to the sidewalk"

Readers Say—



The Story of the Week



THERE'S ENTERTAINMENT for the family in *Sitting Pretty*, a new movie starring Maureen O'Hara, Clifton Webb, Louise Albritton, and Robert Young. Clifton Webb supplies comedy touches in his role as baby-sitter and "genius."

Red Cross Aid

The annual Red Cross drive is now under way for 1948. During the month of March the world-famous relief organization is trying to raise 75 million dollars. As in the past, contributions will go to relieve human suffering wherever disaster may strike.

Since it was founded, the Red Cross has relieved distress at more than 3,600 disasters. Whenever floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, forest fires, and other great calamities take place, the Red Cross springs into action. It is continually expanding its activities.

The familiar insignia of the Red Cross dates back more than 80 years. In 1863 an international conference was held in Switzerland to set up an organization for the relief of human suffering. In choosing an insignia for the new body, it was decided to honor the host country by taking the design of the Swiss flag—a white cross on a red field—and reversing the colors. Thus, the famous symbol of the organization was born.

Seaway Plan Shelved

The plan for the St. Lawrence Seaway is once more resting in Congress' "unfinished business" file. Previously voted down in 1933, 1934, and 1944, the bill was recently returned—by a vote of 57 to 30—to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "for further study." It is not expected to emerge again at this session of Congress.

Supporters of the plan are disappointed, but they say they will bring it up again when they think that circumstances may be more favorable

for its passage. They believe that the next session of Congress may not have to devote as much time to discussing foreign aid and will be able to examine the Seaway proposal in greater detail.

Opponents of the plan are pleased and say that sending the bill back to the committee is, for practical purposes, the same as defeating it. They do not think there is any likelihood of the bill's passing in the future.

Finland's Plight

Since the close of World War II, Finland has, to some extent, been under Russian influence. Nevertheless, she and Czechoslovakia have enjoyed more freedom than other lands within the Soviet sphere of influence. Now the Czechs are completely under Communist and Soviet rule, and it appears that the approximately four million Finns soon may be.

A short time ago, Stalin "suggested" a mutual defense treaty between his country and Finland. Through such a treaty, Russia is expected to gain control over Finland's military forces and strengthen her hold upon the Finnish government and economy.

As these lines are written, there appears to be considerable opposition among Finnish leaders to the Soviet treaty, but it is generally assumed that Russia will achieve her aims in one way or another. Thus comes another chapter in the tense history of Russian-Finnish relations.

Finland was a part of the Russian Empire before the First World War, but at the end of that conflict she became independent. Shortly after

World War II began in 1939, the Soviet Union decided that for her own "defense" she needed some strategic Finnish territory. She tried to bargain for the Baltic port of Hanko and a strip of land that stretched down toward the important Russian city of Leningrad.

The Finns realized that they—situated between Germany and Russia—were in a tough spot. There was disagreement among their leaders over whether it would be better to cooperate with Germany or the Soviet Union. For a number of reasons, including the memory of unpleasant experiences under Russian rule many years earlier, a decision against bargaining with the Soviet Union was made.

As a result, Russia attacked and defeated Finland during the winter of 1939-40. Then the Soviets took the Finnish territory that they had demanded previous to the conflict.

When the Nazis attacked Russia in 1941, Finland entered the fight on Germany's side. For the Finns, this second conflict was particularly disastrous. Their country surrendered to Britain and Russia in 1944. At that time there were about 100,000 German troops in Finland. As they retreated, they systematically destroyed farm houses, villages, and towns.

In the peace settlement, Russia kept the territory that she had taken from Finland in 1940, and the Finns were required to make heavy payments to the Soviet Union for war damages. Russia also obtained a lease on the Porkkala Peninsula, at the entrance of the Gulf of Finland. There, just a few miles from the Finnish capital, Helsinki, a powerful Soviet military base has been set up.

The Finnish government has been faithful in carrying out its agreements with Russia, and careful not to do anything to offend Soviet leaders. In return, Russia has until lately respected Finland's political independence. What to expect in the way of future relations between these two countries will probably soon be clear.

Grain Elevators

An Easterner traveling through the wheat-raising areas of our country is invariably impressed by the number of grain elevators he sees. Wholly unknown in many sections of the nation, these tall, distinctively-shaped storage buildings are a familiar sight in all areas where grain is raised. They are an important factor in the process by which grain gets from the farmer to the ultimate user.

The elevator serves primarily as a storage place for the farmer's grain until it can be sold. Usually made of

concrete and steel, the elevators have machinery to lift the grain into the bins and a system of spouts to let it flow out into freight cars for hauling away. Most modern elevators also have machinery for cleaning the grain.

In the heart of the wheat belt, one sees dozens of elevators spotted at intervals beside the railroad tracks. The largest elevators are located at the centers of grain transportation. Such cities as Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, and Superior all have tremendous storage bins.

Western Europe

As Russia brings increasing force and pressure to bear upon eastern European nations to work in complete harmony with her, five countries of western Europe are voluntarily entering into a cooperative arrangement among themselves. At the time these lines are being written, Britain,



THE NATIONS shown in black have been meeting to consider the formation of a western bloc.

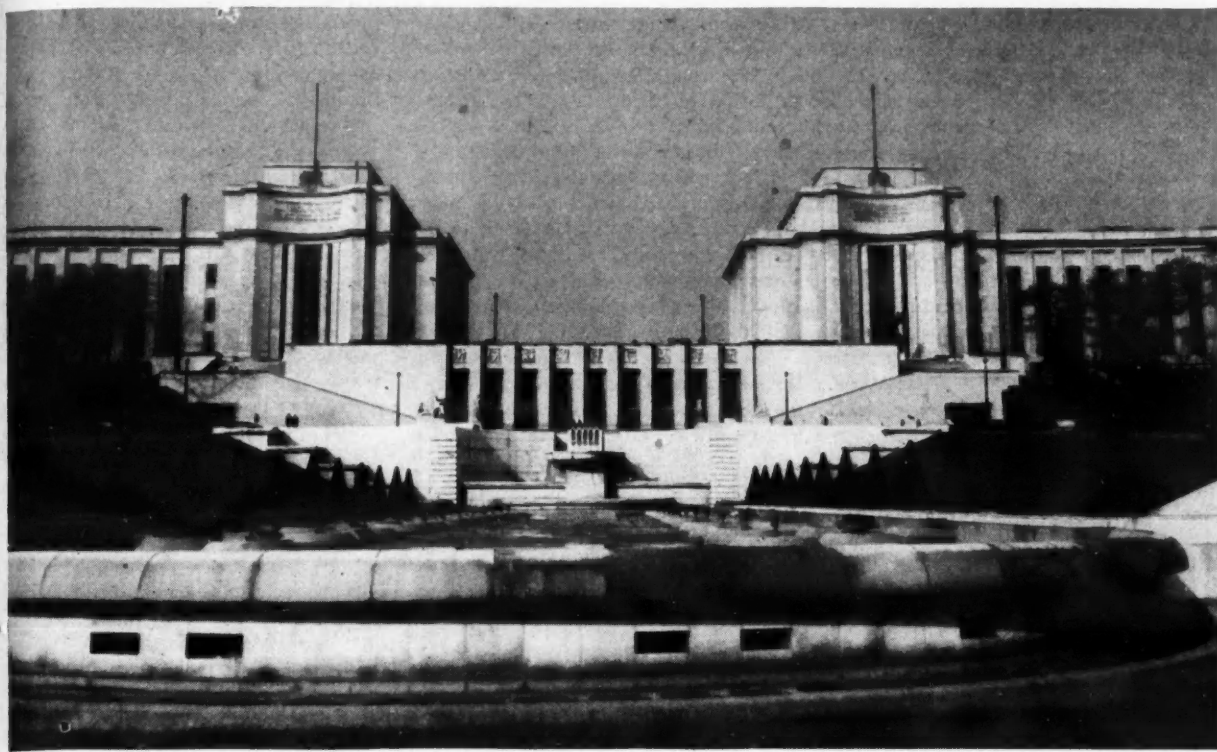
France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are drawing up agreements which will link their economic and military systems closely together. Other nations may join this "western union" which is now being formed.

The same five countries that are establishing a new partnership, plus the United States, have been working on plans for the future supervision and development of western Germany. They have temporarily decided in favor of placing the rich Ruhr area of Germany under permanent international control, so that its industrial facilities cannot again be used for war purposes.

It has also been tentatively agreed that the zones of western Germany will be united economically and politically. The British and American areas have already been brought into



THIS NEW GOLIATH of the rails is the first coal-burning, steam turbine, electric locomotive ever built, and the largest passenger locomotive in the world. It was designed by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway to make the use of coal as power for trains more efficient. When in operation the locomotive is both clean and quiet!



PALAIS DE CHAILLOT in Paris, where the next session of the United Nations General Assembly will meet late this year. The palace was built for the World's Fair of 1937. It is located across the river from the Eiffel Tower.

a close working relationship, and now the French appear ready to merge their zone with the other two. A federal form of government will be set up for the western Germans, and their land will participate in the Marshall Plan.

The final details for western Germany's future are expected to be worked out at London next month. At that time, the six nations—Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the United States—which ended their first conference a week ago, will meet again.

Lobbyists at Work

The right of people to petition their law-makers is recognized in the Constitution, but some groups abuse this right by exerting undue pressure. They engage "lobbyists" who try in numerous ways to get members of Congress to pass laws favorable to their clients.

As a result of lobbying abuses, a law was passed in 1946, requiring lobbyists to register with Congress. How that law has worked out and how lobbyists go about their work is described by Ruth Finney, a Washington newspaperwoman, in an informative article in a recent issue of the *American Mercury*.

Miss Finney does not think that the lobby registration act has accomplished the good that was hoped for. Its purpose was to throw the public spotlight on lobbyists by making them register with Congress. According to Miss Finney, however, more groups than ever are lobbying, and the people of the nation know little more about their activities than they did before.

According to the author, there were—as of last September—898 individuals and groups registered as lobbyists. They represent dozens of interests. Railroads, labor groups, veterans organizations, the oil industry, the real estate business and many others have people representing them in Washington to work for the passage of laws favoring their interests.

Not all lobbies are, of course, guilty of harmful practices. Many of them

work toward objectives which are recognized by thoughtful people as worth-while and in the public interest. In her article Miss Finney gives a great deal of interesting information on how lobbies carry out their work.

Constitution for India

The new constitution recently drawn up for the Indian Union will be carefully discussed by the Indian Assembly next month. Observers believe that it will be accepted without any great changes. When it will go into effect is not yet known, but it may be sometime next year.

Based on the practices and principles of Great Britain and the United States, the new constitution has several features especially adapted to conditions in India. The Hindu principle of untouchability—that certain people are, by birth, outcasts of society and are so "low" that even their slightest touch contaminates members of the upper classes—is abolished. Child labor—a problem of long standing in India—is also forbidden.

The organization of the government under the proposed constitution is somewhat of a combination of the British and American systems. At the top is a president elected for five years. There is also a prime minister who heads a staff of advisers corresponding to the President's cabinet in America.

The parliament is to consist of two houses—the Council of States and the House of the People. One interesting provision of the constitution deals with the make-up of the Council of States. Most of the members of this body will be elected by the people, but 15 will be appointed by the Indian president to represent such fields as literature, art, and science.

A Government Problem

A plan to provide skilled, experienced workers for specialized positions in the government in times of emergency has been discussed in Washington. Under the proposal, a "government reserve corps" would be set up. It would include specialists in

various fields, all of whom are now employed in private industry.

In an emergency, members of the corps would be called from their private jobs to work temporarily for the government. While they were "on loan," they would suffer no financial loss. If their government salaries were lower than what they received in private industry, their private employers would make up the difference.

Important Crop

One farm product which has become increasingly important is the lowly peanut. Long a favorite with circus goers and baseball fans, the peanut has acquired dozens of industrial uses in recent years. George Washington Carver, the famous Negro scientist, discovered hundreds of new uses for the plant which today produces an annual crop worth \$200,000,000.

Although the potentialities of the peanut have only begun to be realized in the last two or three decades, the plant has a long and interesting history. The Spanish explorers of the time of Pizarro found peanuts growing in Peru and took some back to Spain. Later, peanuts were planted

in North Africa. When the slave trade with America got under way, peanuts were used by the slave traders to feed the unfortunate Africans who were being brought to this country.

Some of the slaves planted the peanuts around their cabins, and as time passed, the crop spread throughout the South. Soldiers returning to the North after the Civil War brought back peanuts with them and they became popular in that section. Gradually they came into use among candy makers. Now their uses have multiplied many times.

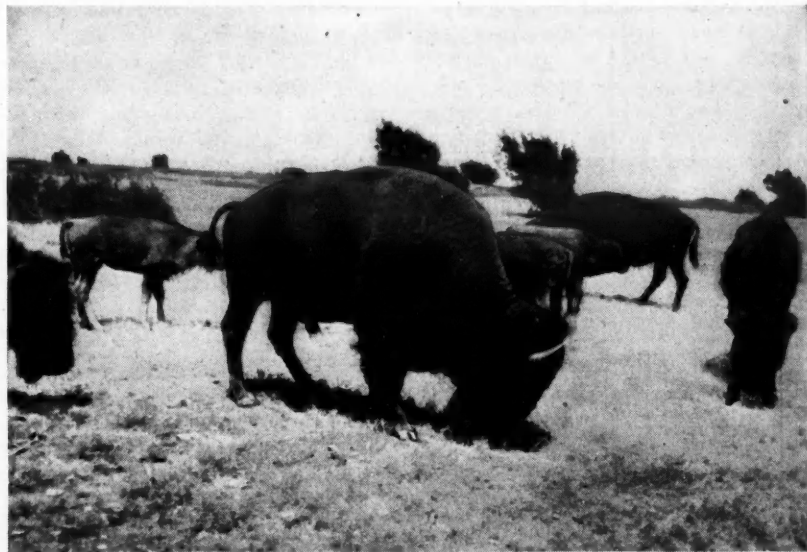
Olympic Aspirants

The indoor track season—now in its last weeks—has been attracting more attention than usual this winter. Sports fans know that they are seeing in action some of the athletes who will represent the U. S. at the Olympic Games in London next summer.

America's greatest strength in past Olympics has usually been in the field events—jumping, vaulting, and weight throwing. The high caliber of the performances in these events during the indoor season indicates that we will again make a strong showing in the international competition. In the pole vault, for example, Robert Richards of Illinois and Richmond Morcom of New Hampshire have both done better than 14 feet and 6 inches—a height greater than the Olympic record.

Several excellent jumpers have been taking part in indoor meets. In the recent National A. A. U. meet at New York, John Vislocky won the high jump with a leap of 6 feet and 7 inches. Lorenzo Wright of Wayne University took the broad jump with a mark of more than 25 feet and 3 inches.

Among the runners who have been outstanding this winter and may represent us at London are Gil Dodds in the mile, Dave Bolen of Colorado and Reggie Pearman of New York in the middle distances, and Billy Mathis of Illinois in the sprints. A trackman who combines the speed of a dash man and the leaping ability of a jumper is Harrison Dillard, a star hurdler from Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio, a national champion for the past two years. He is considered a top contender for this country's Olympic team.



LONG EXTINCT in their wild state, buffaloes are now protected on several large ranches in west Texas, as well as in national parks.

Foreign Policy

(Concluded from page 1)

United States should do more than give money for relief and rebuilding. For example, Russia would like nothing better than to conquer Greece and Turkey—countries from which military attacks could be launched against North Africa and the Near East.

"The United States should therefore continue to furnish military supplies to these countries. We should make it clear beyond any doubt that we will be on their side if they are ever attacked by the Soviet Union.

"In the Far East, we should give enough help to China, southern Korea, and Japan to keep them from becoming victims of communism.

"We hope that some day the United Nations will be strong enough to put down any country which invades or threatens another nation. The UN is not strong enough to do that now, so the United States must block Russia's ambitions by helping the countries she may attack."

The second speaker wants the United States to keep hands off Europe and Asia, and stay at home. Here are his opinions:

"As soon as final peace treaties can be made with Germany and Japan, the United States should withdraw its armed forces from Europe and Asia. This country should not help any European or Asiatic nation to prepare for war. If a conflict should develop on those continents, we should not take sides in it.

Accustomed to War

"The nations of the old world have waged wars for many centuries, and there is no reason to think that they are going to stop now, or that we can stop them. It is just a question of whether or not we are going to get mixed up in a Third World War.

"The policy for us to follow is to keep our money and our armed forces at home. We should spend the money not on foreign assistance, but on powerful defenses for our own protection. We should be prepared to defend all of the Western Hemisphere, if necessary, but not the rest of the world. After two World Wars, we should know by now that there is nothing to be gained by mixing in distant battles.

"We have enough problems of our own to solve here at home without trying to take on the burdens of other lands. Let us use our time, energy, resources, and money here, instead of wasting them elsewhere. By doing so, we shall be stronger and better prepared for a crisis than if we throw away money on the rest of the world."

The third speaker favors the ideas of Henry Wallace, who is running for President as an independent candidate. He says:

"The United States should help the needy countries of the world. That much of our government's plan is good. But Wallace is right when he says that we should not send food, money, machines, and raw materials as a bribe to line up nations against Russia.

"When we do that, we only make Russia more determined than ever to push communism farther westward in Europe. She looks upon our aid as a weapon against communism, just as

we frankly say it is. So she does everything in her power to spread that system.

"So long as we invite this conflict, we are helping to line up nations into hostile camps. We are bringing about war, not peace.

"Instead of following the present plan of giving aid, the United States should decide how much this country can give to relieve distress in other lands. This money should not be turned over to the needy nations themselves, but should be given to the United Nations. The UN should then distribute the funds wherever they are most needed.

"The United States and the 56 other members of the UN should decide how and where to use the money. Aid should be given to Russia and other nations of eastern Europe, as well as to the western democracies. In all cases, it should be provided that none

States will declare war on Russia the instant she tries to take control of another country. We should let it be known that we are not going to stand idly by if another land is pushed under the wheels of communism.

"To back up our stand, we should immediately expand our Air Force to war strength, and keep it there. It must be ready for immediate and devastating action, so that Russia will know we are not making an empty bluff.

"If we take these steps now, the Russians may be wise enough not to go any further. They may pull in their horns, knowing that they are in no condition to wage a war. They will see that they have gone as far as they can, and the spread of Russian-controlled, Communist dictatorships will be stopped. Later, after the nations of western Europe have become stronger, there will be much less

foreign policy should be in the present world crisis. Some citizens, of course, do not accept any one of the views completely, but support parts of several of them. In the long run, the government will be guided by the view which seems to have the backing of most people. Hence, every American should study and discuss our nation's foreign policy, so that public opinion will be informed and intelligent.

In making such a study, one should not confine his thinking to what should be done under conditions which exist today. He should also try to figure out as many as possible of the events which may occur within the coming months. Then, when an important event does occur, he will have thought a great deal about it in advance and will be able to form his opinion quickly. If citizens make up their minds quickly, the government can act more decisively.

But what are some of the developments which may take place? Here are a few which we would do well to ponder. We should know in advance what policy for the United States we would advocate if one of these events should occur:

(a) If, next April, the Italian elections should give the Communists a majority and thus turn the government over to officials whose policies would be dictated from Moscow.

(b) If Russian armies should soon invade Greece or Turkey.

(c) If Russia should order American and British occupation forces out of Berlin.

(d) If Russia adopts a more conciliatory attitude and gives evidence of willingness to cooperate with this country.

Advance Preparation

In mentioning these possibilities, the editors of this paper are not suggesting what readers should think about the issues which would be involved, nor are we suggesting any particular policy for the government to adopt. Any one of these developments may take place, however, and if that should happen, neither the country's officials nor its citizens should be caught napping. Thinking things through in advance will help all of us to shape a wiser and safer foreign policy.

In conclusion, this fact should be kept in mind: Foreign policy is definitely connected with military policy. For example, suppose you decide that the United States should prevent Russia from invading any nation of western Europe. You must then ask: Does the United States have the military power to carry out such a policy?

If not, it must follow one of three courses. It must (a) give up all thought of holding the Russians in check, or (b) build up its armaments so that it can successfully repel Russian conquest, or (c) build up the power of the United Nations so that organization will be strong enough to curb aggression.

Too often people who discuss foreign policy, who talk about what the United States ought to do, leave out of consideration the question of military power. They do not stop to inquire whether our country has, at present, a strong enough Army, Navy, and Air Force to do what they say it should do. It can be very dangerous for people to talk in warlike terms if their nation is unprepared for war. One's thinking on matters of foreign policy should be closely related with his thinking on military policy.



DRIFTING farther apart

SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

of the money is to be used in preparation for war.

"If the United States would use its wealth and power in this manner, we would help to build up a spirit of peace and compromise. None of the nations would fear us. None would think we were selfish. We would, indeed, be using our leadership in the cause of peace."

The final speaker says that the United States should not hesitate in using military force to check Russian aggression. In favor of a "tougher" plan, he says:

"The time has come for our country to be much more forceful in its actions. The President and the Secretary of State are right when they urge that we give generous aid to the nations which are not already under Russia's heel. They are also wise in giving military, as well as financial, assistance to such countries as Greece and Turkey which are threatened by actual Soviet aggression.

But these plans alone are not enough. In addition, we should tell the world quite clearly—now—that the United

States will declare war on Russia the instant she tries to take control of another country.

"If we do not act quickly and forcefully, however, the Russians will continue their attempts to place all Europe under communism. Were they to succeed, Moscow would rule over the entire continent, and would mobilize its men and materials against us.

"That was the dream of Hitler and the Nazis, and they became dangerously strong even before any moves were made to stop them. Had they been warned, as Russia should be now, there is a chance that they would have halted their efforts short of war.

"Let us not repeat our mistake. The dreams of Stalin and the Communists are no different from the dreams of Hitler and the Nazis. Either we stop Russia now, and avoid greater trouble, or we let her go on thinking that, bit by bit, she can conquer the world.

"We should remember the lessons taught us by World War II, and stop Russian aggression now—before it is too late. It will be costly, but not nearly so costly as another world war."

These are the four major points of view with respect to what American

American Presidents - - Taylor, Fillmore

ONE hundred years ago, as today, war clouds darkened the skies. Then the threat was a war among the states. Today it is international conflict. The crisis a century ago called for outstanding leadership, as does the present emergency.

Whether such leadership will guide us through the existing dangers we do not know. It did *not* come to the helm a century ago. There was a presidential election in 1848, but the big problem of that day (slavery) was kept in the background as much as possible.

That year the Democrats nominated Lewis Cass of Michigan for president. He and his party talked against the tariff, the national bank, and federal spending on roads, canals, and other internal improvements. They also said Congress should not interfere with slavery in the states which wanted it, but they did not make much of that issue in general for fear of losing too many votes in the northern states.

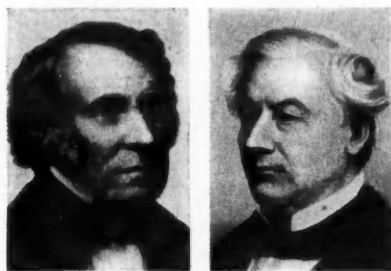
The Whigs nominated General Zachary Taylor who led the American forces to victory in an important engagement of the Mexican War, but who was not interested in politics and had never voted.

The Whigs did not adopt a platform. Their candidate avoided big issues, called himself "a Whig but not an ultra Whig." He said, "On the subject of the tariff, the currency, and the improvement of our great highways, the will of the people as ex-

pressed by their representatives in Congress ought to be respected and carried out by the Executive."

Here was an expression of the view that Congress and not the President should decide upon policies, that the President should not attempt the role of national leader.

General Taylor was elected and put his views into effect. He did not shape policies. The year following his taking office the slavery issue became hot and war threatened. Finally the Compromise of 1850 was enacted and it helped to postpone the ap-



ZACHARY TAYLOR (left) and his successor, Millard Fillmore

proaching war. But it was not the work of the President. The issue was threshed out by such leaders as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun.

Before the compromise was agreed upon, President Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready" as he was called, passed from the scene. On July 4, 1850, he attended exercises at the Washington

Monument, was overheated, drank too much ice water, went home, ate cherries and drank milk, and a few days later he died.

Millard Fillmore, who succeeded to the presidency, was, if anything, a less distinguished leader than his predecessor. He was born on a New York farm, taught school, studied law, was a member of the state legislature and of the National House of Representatives.

Fillmore was opposed to the extension of slavery into free territories, but he supported the Compromise of 1850. This act had a number of provisions, one of which was the Fugitive Slave Law, which required the return to the South of fugitive slaves. Another provision, inserted to satisfy the North, declared that California should be admitted as a free state.

The Taylor-Fillmore administration closed without having done much toward the solution of the problems of the day. This was a period of weak presidential leadership. The great names of the time were not the names of White House occupants, but of congressional leaders, particularly the famous trio, Webster, Clay, and Calhoun, all of whom died before Fillmore's term was over.

By that time the Whig Party's sun had set. After a few futile attempts to regain power, it went to pieces in the 1850's, and has since been remembered as one of the conspicuous failures of American politics.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. *Peremptory* (per-emp'tō-rī) demands were made by members of the group. (a) absolute and domineering (b) polite and tactful (c) frantic and hysterical.
2. The book had many *abstruse* (ab-strōōs') statements. (a) obscure (b) interesting (c) incorrect (d) startling.
3. The animal was a *torpid* (tor'pid) creature. (a) vicious (b) rare (c) dull and sluggish (d) extremely dangerous.
4. There was some question as to the *validity* (vā-lid'ī-ti) of his statements. (a) truth (b) sincerity (c) purpose (d) source.
5. A *pugnacious* (pug-nay'shus) person has a: (a) fighting disposition (b) piggish manner (c) powerful personality.
6. Her *malicious* (mā-lish'us) accusations made everyone uneasy. (a) courageously frank (b) bitter and spiteful (c) false and dangerous.
7. We were surprised at the *intricacy* (in'tri-kuh-si) of the problem. (a) solution (b) complexity (c) simplicity (d) importance.
8. It seemed necessary to *chide* (chid) some of the children. (a) aid (b) scold (c) test (d) quarantine.
9. The man was granted *amnesty* (am'nēs-ti) by his government. (a) a loan (b) a pardon (c) a high office (d) a deed to property.
10. We found her to be an *amicable* (am'ī-kuh-bl) person. (a) friendly (b) talented (c) loyal (d) unreliable.
11. The drug often caused *deleterious* (dē'lē-tēr'ī-us) results. (a) unexpected (b) permanent (c) beneficial (d) harmful.
12. There was some question as to the man's *probity* (prōb'ī-ti). (a) honesty (b) intelligence (c) motive (d) citizenship.

Outside Reading

"Czechoslovakia: Moscow's Reluctant Ally," by Irving Talmadge, *Current History*, November 1947.

"Crossroads Between Two Worlds," by Raymond Daniell, *New York Times Magazine*, October 26, 1947.

"The Rivalry of Nations," by Walter Lippmann, *Atlantic Monthly*, February 1948.

"If Russia Grabs Europe," by Joseph and Stewart Alsop, *Saturday Evening Post*, December 20, 1947.

"The Collapse of Czech Democracy," by Daniel Seligman, *American Mercury*, March 1948.

"The New Year," by Barbara Ward, *New York Times Magazine*, December 28, 1947. Changes in American attitudes on foreign policy.

"US Policy and the USSR," Philip Mosely, *Survey Graphic*, December 1947.

Pronunciations

Benes—bē'nēsh
Masaryk—mah'sah-rēk'
Moldau—mawl'dou (ou as in out)
Moravia—mō-rā'vī-ah
Prague—prahg or prāg

What Is Happening In Science

AN atomic power plant is now being constructed at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, New York. It will be the first atomic plant to furnish power for useful peacetime work. The splitting uranium atoms are to be cooled by air. Air thus heated will be used to boil water which, in turn, will produce the steam needed to generate electricity.

This atomic power will not, in the near future, be able to compete with other types of power, for it will be very expensive. It is expected, however, that the experimentation at Brookhaven will enable scientists to work out various problems involved, and will mean that eventually an atomic power plant can become a practical way of producing electricity for homes and factories.

A new drug, called "aerosporin," which is not being sold commercially as yet, will be used in treating whoop-

ing cough. Unlike penicillin, which is made from molds, the drug is obtained from bacteria found in the soil and air. It is thought that the drug may also prove effective in fighting typhoid fever.

The winners in the Science Talent Search, conducted among 16,000 high school students all over the country, were announced a short time ago. Among the 40 finalists sent to Washington to be interviewed personally by the judges, a boy and a girl were selected as top winners. Each of the two will receive a \$2,400 Westinghouse Science Scholarship.

Andrew Kende, winner of one of these scholarships, is a 15-year-old chemist from Evanston, Illinois. He developed compounds designed to eliminate danger of explosions occurring in various chemical processes. Andrew, who ties for first place in his high school class of 600 students, was born in Hungary and is now a naturalized

citizen of the United States. He plans to attend the University of Chicago and to make his profession that of a research chemist. Andrew built all



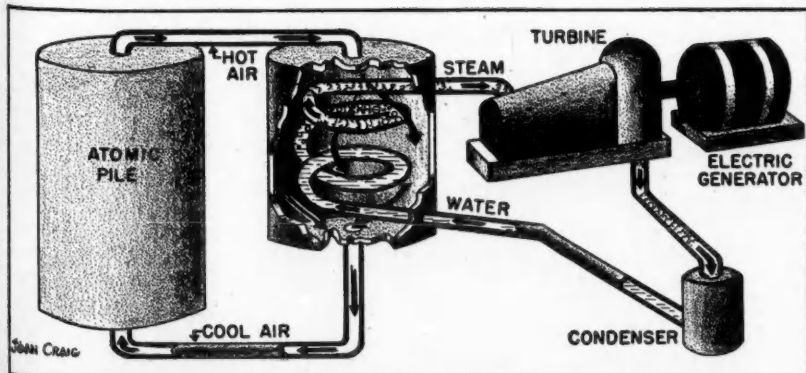
ANDREW KENDE (left) and Barbara Wolff, winners of Westinghouse Electric's Science Talent Search for 1948.

of the equipment used in his experiments.

Capturing the award given to the best girl scientist, Miss Barbara Wolff of Flushing, New York, won her scholarship for research with fruit flies. By treating the eggs of the insects with dyes and with light, Miss Wolff was able to produce non-hereditary changes in the shape and color of the flies in one generation—changes which did not appear in the next generation. She is editor of her school paper, likes music and modern dancing, and ranks third in her academic studies.

The 40 finalists in the science contest represent 16 different states. Several of the students have foreign-born parents. In addition to the two scholarships won by the top winners, the other finalists were given awards of lesser amounts.

—By HAZEL LEWIS.



THE STEPS in making electricity from atomic energy (see note)

A Career for Tomorrow - - Engineering

YOUNG men—and young women, too—who have mathematical talent, imagination and other necessary qualifications may find that the field of engineering offers a satisfying career. Engineers use their technical knowledge in planning and supervising the construction of buildings and highways, the operation of power plants, the designing and testing of aircraft, and countless other projects.

The field is one that has greatly expanded as our life has become more and more industrialized. At first, all persons who planned civilian rather than military projects were known as civil engineers. This name is still given to men in the field who are concerned chiefly with erecting structures that are not movable—bridges, highways, dams, water systems, and the like.

Gradually as industry grew, though, engineering became more specialized. Today there are many branches, and their names suggest the particular kind of work with which each is concerned. There are, for instance, mechanical, electrical, chemical, aeronautical, and automotive engineers. There are also agricultural engineers who handle large-scale developments connected with farming.

All branches of engineering require the same basic abilities and training. An engineer must understand and enjoy mathematics, chemistry, and physics. He must have the kind of imagination that enables him to visualize a large project, and then to outline the details for bringing his plans into existence.

In high school the prospective engineer should study algebra, geometry,

trigonometry, physics, chemistry, and mechanical drawing, if it is offered. A college degree is usually essential for persons going into this kind of work. A few individuals with marked ability may become engineers without having gone to college, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

The first part of the college course for engineers is spent in acquiring a knowledge of advanced mathematics and science, and in learning the basic principles of engineering operations.



SURVEYING is one part of the civil engineer's job

During the last part of his course, a young person usually specializes in the particular branch of the field that he has chosen. Frequently it is possible for a young man to take his college work in engineering at night, if he cannot give his full time to the study when he finishes high school.

Salaries for engineers with experience are generally good. A young man who has just completed his education may earn about \$250 a month in his first job. His salary will increase with experience if he proves that he can succeed in the work.

A recent study shows that engineers

with eight years' experience earn about \$375 a month; those with 15 to 19 years on the job make, on the average, from \$415 to \$568 a month; and those with the longest period of experience earn from \$513 to more than \$800 a month. Salaries of chemical engineers are usually higher than those of persons in other branches of the profession.

Information about schools and colleges that give recognized courses in engineering can be secured from the Engineer's Council for Professional Development, 29 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y. Students interested in this line of work should ask their school or city librarians for books and magazines describing its different branches.

Although most engineers are men, women have entered the field and have done well in it.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Sheep, cattle, and hogs are now being carried daily from Utah stockyards to the Pacific coast in special, de luxe cattle cars on high-speed trains. The streamlined, double-decked, cattle "pullmans" have roller bearings that allow trains to maintain a high speed without bruising the animals. Pulled by powerful Diesel engines, the cattle trains maintain a schedule that is close to that of the best passenger trains.

Before the special train was put into operation, it was necessary to make a stop to feed and water the cattle. Now this stop is not necessary. The cattle arrive at their destination in excellent condition.

Is Television a Dangerous Rival?

Movie and Radio Officials Watch Response to "Video"

AN article by Ed James, "Will Television Steal the Show?" in the current issue of *American Magazine*, takes the position that "video" is threatening the popularity of both the movies and radio. Many persons will disagree with the opinions expressed by Mr. James. They will contend that this new form of entertainment may become popular, but that it will not take the place of the older forms. Mr. James, however, takes a contrary position, and we shall pass on the views he expresses in his article.

He contends there is evidence that the movies as well as other current forms of entertainment—including radio—are already suffering as a result of television. The video audience is small, but it is fervid, and it is growing steadily.

A year or so ago, a survey conducted among television set owners in New York showed that nearly half of them had cut down on their movie attendance after buying their sets. More than half reported they preferred television to radio. More recent studies show that the longer the families have had television, the better they like it in comparison with other forms of entertainment.

Sports promoters are finding that television is reducing attendance at their events, too. At first the promoters were happy to capitalize on the

new industry by selling television rights to sports events, without considering the possibility of future cuts in box office receipts. They are beginning to feel the pinch now, and some of them are refusing to permit their events to be televised.

The popularity of television, of course, will depend upon whether or not manufacturers can bring the costs of the sets down to a level that most



THE NBC television network covers several cities along the Atlantic coast

people can afford. The number of new stations now being built, according to Mr. James, shows that investors believe these costs will soon be lowered. Seventeen stations are operating at present, and applications for almost 100 others have either been approved or are pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

Like a majority of radio stations, television outlets will be interconnected by network services, in time. One chain already connects several cities on the Atlantic coast. The fact that this network coverage could be provided is said to have been an important factor in the selection of Philadelphia as the site for both the Republican and Democratic national conventions next summer.

It is in the coverage of news, special events, and particularly sports that television has excelled. Thus far, other kinds of programs have failed to arouse the intense interest that television pioneers hope to have in the future. At present, dramatic and variety programs are hampered by high costs.

This problem can be adequately met, in the opinion of Mr. James, when the television audience is large enough to warrant sizable expenditures by advertisers. Like radio, television will derive its support from manufacturers or merchants interested in using it to peddle goods. The number of advertisers for the new industry is gradually growing.

Television veterans are convinced of the success of their crusade. Some radio executives seem to have the same opinion. One of these men, in announcing his company's intention to invest heavily in television, said of the new competitor, "It's too good to die."

Study Guide

Foreign Policy

1. Briefly present arguments in support of the foreign policy that is being followed by President Truman and Secretary Marshall.
2. According to those who want the United States to keep hands off Europe and Asia, how should our nation use the money that President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall propose to spend on foreign assistance?
3. Describe the views of Henry Wallace on aid to foreign countries.
4. Give the arguments of those who believe that we should resist with military force any further Russian expansion.
5. Explain this statement: "Foreign policy is definitely connected with military policy."

Discussion

1. Which of the four viewpoints described in the article on foreign policy corresponds most nearly with your own?
2. With which of them do you disagree most sharply?
3. Do you feel that our military policy, at present, is closely enough linked with our foreign policy?

Czechoslovakia

1. How has life changed in Czechoslovakia now that the Communists have taken complete control?
2. Just before the recent change was made, what was the policy of the Czechoslovak government toward Russia?
3. Give some of the probable reasons why Russia wanted the Czech Communists to seize power when they did?
4. Briefly trace the history of Czechoslovakia since she first became an independent country.
5. Why is it said that Czechoslovakia's system of making a living is well balanced?
6. To what extent had the government, prior to last month, taken over Czech industries?

Discussion

1. In your opinion, how can Americans show their friendship for the Czech people and bolster their hope that they will eventually regain independence?
2. Do you or do you not feel that Russia's policy toward Czechoslovakia offers the same danger to world peace that Germany's policy toward that country did prior to World War II?

Miscellaneous

1. What career was Arthur Vandenberg engaged in before he became a senator?
2. How is Newfoundland now governed, and what is the purpose of the election soon to be held on that northern island?
3. According to an article in the *American Mercury*, are lobbyists in the nation's capital more or less active than they were before the law requiring them to register with Congress was passed?
4. Name two national leaders who were outstanding during the administrations of Presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore.
5. What action has been taken on the bill before Congress that provides a plan for developing the St. Lawrence Seaway?
6. Briefly describe two features of the constitution drawn up for the Dominion of India.
7. What is the plan for a "government reserve corps"?
8. Why did Russia attack Finland in the winter of 1939-40?

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) absolute and domineering;
2. (a) obscure; 3. (c) dull and sluggish; 4. (a) truth; 5. (a) fighting disposition; 6. (b) bitter and spiteful;
7. (b) complexity; 8. (b) scold; 9. (b) a pardon; 10. (a) friendly; 11. (d) harmful; 12. (a) honesty.